

489 W. 6th St.
Claremont, Ca 91711
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Center for Rural Studies
345 Franklin St.
San Francisco, Ca 94102

Dear Sirs,

I am interested in more information about your project, and am tempted to apply for a staff job with you.

I am a Phi Beta Kappa graduate (1964) of Pomona College, having graduated with distinction and honors, cum laude, in history. I had a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for the 1964-1965 school year, when I continued my studies at Berkeley, concentrating on Latin American history. However, by then my interests were turning to agriculture and organizing for social change, and I left school in 1965, without obtaining an M.A. or Ph.D.

I June of 1965 I moved to Visalia, California as part of a Student Committee for Agricultural Labor project, living in Linnell Farm Labor Camp (Tulare County Housing Authority) and participating in the rent strike going on at that time. I also worked in the fields that entire summer, primarily in the peaches and plums, for Redbanks Fruit Company and for labor contractors harvesting for growers marketing through Nash de Camp. I was also involved in organizing and leading a strike at Exeter Dehydrator Company, in behalf of friends of mine, though I was not employed there. I also worked in close cooperation with David Havens and Gilbert Padilla of the California Migrant Ministry, who organized me and encouraged me to move to Delano and assist the National Farm Workers Association in the publication of its newspaper. In August of 1965 I aided Padilla (who was also a Vice President of the Union) in a strike at Martin Ranch of Earlimart and then moved to Delano to aid in the publication and distribution of "El Malcriado," the Union newspaper. On September 8, the largely Filipino Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO went out on strike against major grape growers in Delano, and I participated in staff meetings of the NFWA planning our response to the strike. From then until 1971 I worked full time for the union, as picket captain in the grape strike during the initial days of the strike and then as associate editor, editor, and business manager of "El Malcriado" from late 1965 until March of 1970. This period included 8 months as editor of the Texas edition, when I lived in Rio Grande City, Texas, in 1967. During that time I was arrested by the Texas Rangers and was defendant (and plaintiff in the union's counter litigation) that overturned most of Texas's most repressive labor laws.

In March of 1970 I was assigned to Philadelphia with Padilla to work on the Grape Boycott, and remained there through its successful completion, the preliminary boycotts against major corporations in the lettuce industry, and finally the general lettuce boycott. I was coordinator for Delaware County (a 600,000 population suburban county) and later all of Central Pennsylvania for the grape boycott, and of Delaware County for the lettuce boycott. In March of 1971 I was

assigned, along with Harriet Teller, to establish a lettuce boycott in St. Louis Missouri. We were extremely successful in this but I left the boycott in December, 1971, during the so-called "moratorium" on the lettuce boycott.

In December, 1971, I returned to California and got a job through the union hiring hall at Tenneco Farming Company's Ducer Ranch, a 7,000 acre table grape spread, living in a company labor camp and serving for most of the year as steward for our crew. I worked in the pruning, pre-harvest and harvest operations, and during the layoff in November of 1972, participated in the Union's election activities and worked in the ergages and at Mark Avedian Ranch in Shafter. I spent a second winter pruning at Tenneco and then spent 6 weeks pruning and tying at Almaden Vineyards in Hollister, another union ranch.

In April and May of 1973 I spent 37 days in jail in Tulare County as part of a 60-day sentence (modified), the result of a frame-up arising out of picketing the previous summer at struck crane ranches. On being released from jail, I found that Tenneco had broken its contract with the union, evicted all pre-union members from the camp, broken the lock on my door to my room and installed two scabs in my room and repudiated my leave of absence. But since I was on probation, I was hesitant to join my brothers on the picket lines, where I am well-known and would face probable arrest.

I have applied for admission to Claremont Graduate School and am contemplating working with Dr. Merrill Geedall on a project relating to irrigation districts and water districts and the relation of their policies to land tenureship. But I noticed your ad in the New Republic and, being unaware of your project, thought I should write to you and find out who you are, and possibly promote myself for a future job, since at least for the time being I want to get off the picket line.

I look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best of luck in your project.

Viva la Causa...
Sincerely,

Douglass Adair